

handbooks, dictionaries and primers in the tribal languages like Kurukh, Mundari, Sadri, Santali, Ho etc. Department of Tribal Languages, Ranchi University has also been augmenting the work on tribal languages. Ranchi University also has a museum exhibiting the articles of tribal interest representing the entire Central Indian region;

- (8) In Madhya Pradesh, the Tribal Research and Development Institute at Bhopal has been working on the culture and languages of different tribal communities. In collaboration with CIIL, a Ghondi-Hindi biliteracy primer was prepared (unpublished but used in the field by literacy practitioners). This institute has two tribal interest museums, one at Bhopal and another at Chhindwara;
- (9) In Himachal Pradesh, the Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Language and the Directorate of Languages have been working on the culture and languages of many tribal communities and CIIL has conducted training programmes and collaborative programmes for language development with these organizations.

Legislation for rights in land to forest dwelling STs

3478. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to enact a legislation to vest rights in land under forest and minor forest produce to forest dwelling STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to simplify the system to identifying pre-1980 tribal forest settlers by involving local panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Parliament has enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in the Winter Session of Parliament, 2006 which has since received the

assent of the President. The Act seeks to recognise and vest certain rights over forest in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including right to collect use, and dispose the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights:

(c) and (d) As per the Act, the Gram Sabha has been designated as the authority initiate the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both that may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been in occupation of forest land prior to 13 December, 2005 and to other traditional forest dwellers, who have been in occupation of forest land for three generations prior to 13 December, 2005.

Tribal Sub-Plan for development of forest villages

3479. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to cover 13 States under Tribal Sub-Plan to develop forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be earmarked for this purpose;

(c) whether Government also propose to develop forest villages of other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) As informed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, there are 2,474 forest villages/habitations in the country, spread over 12 States (earlier this was estimated to be 2,690 forest villages in 13 States). Of the Rs. 450 crore earmarked for expenditure on forest villages during the Tenth Five Year Plan, proposals covering 2,388 forest villages in 11 States